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SENATE BILL 5572

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Snyder, Winsley and Oke

Read first time 01/26/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to permissible highway signs; and amending RCW  
2 47.42.040, 47.42.102, and 47.42.107.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.42.040 and 1991 c 94 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 It is declared to be the policy of the state that no signs which  
7 are visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system,  
8 primary system, or scenic system shall be erected or maintained except  
9 the following types:

10 (1) Directional or other official signs or notices that are  
11 required or authorized by law;

12 (2) Signs advertising the sale or lease of the property upon which  
13 they are located;

14 (3) Signs advertising activities conducted on the property on which  
15 they are located;

16 (4) Signs, not inconsistent with the policy of this chapter and the  
17 national policy set forth in section 131 of title 23, United States  
18 Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by  
19 section 106, Public Law 86-342, and the national standards promulgated

1 thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of  
2 transportation, advertising activities being conducted at a location  
3 within twelve miles of the point at which such signs are located:  
4 PROVIDED, That no sign lawfully erected pursuant to this subsection  
5 adjacent to the interstate system and outside commercial and industrial  
6 areas shall be maintained by any person after three years from May 10,  
7 1971;

8 (5) Signs, not inconsistent with the policy of this chapter and the  
9 national policy set forth in section 131 of title 23, United States  
10 Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by  
11 section 106, Public Law 86-342, and the regulations promulgated  
12 thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of  
13 transportation, designed to give information in the specific interest  
14 of the traveling public: PROVIDED, That no sign lawfully erected  
15 pursuant to this subsection adjacent to the interstate system and  
16 outside commercial and industrial areas shall be maintained by any  
17 person after three years from May 10, 1971;

18 (6) Signs lawfully in existence on October 22, 1965, determined by  
19 the commission, subject to the approval of the United States secretary  
20 of transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm  
21 structures or natural surfaces, of historic or artistic significance  
22 the preservation of which would be consistent with the purposes of  
23 chapter 47.42 RCW;

24 (7) Public service signs, located on school bus stop shelters,  
25 which:

26 (a) Identify the donor, sponsor, or contributor of said shelters;

27 (b) Contain safety slogans or messages which occupy not less than  
28 sixty percent of the area of the sign;

29 (c) Contain no other message;

30 (d) Are located on school bus shelters which are authorized or  
31 approved by city, county, or state law, regulation, or ordinance, and  
32 at places approved by the city, county, or state agency controlling the  
33 highway involved; and

34 (e) Do not exceed thirty-two square feet in area. Not more than  
35 one sign on each shelter may face in any one direction.

36 Subsection (7) of this section notwithstanding, the department of  
37 transportation shall adopt regulations relating to the appearance of  
38 school bus shelters, the placement, size, and public service content of  
39 public service signs located thereon, and the prominence of the

1 identification of the donors, sponsors, or contributors of the  
2 shelters((-));

3 (8) Temporary agricultural directional signs, with the following  
4 restrictions:

5 (a) Signs shall be posted only during the period of time the  
6 seasonal agricultural product is being sold;

7 (b) Signs shall not be placed adjacent to the interstate highway  
8 system unless the sign qualifies as an on-premise sign;

9 (c) Signs shall not be placed within an incorporated city or town;

10 (d) Premises on which the seasonal agricultural products are sold  
11 must be within fifteen miles of the state highway, and necessary  
12 supplemental signing on local roads must be provided before the  
13 installation of the signs on the state highway;

14 (e) Signs must be located so as not to restrict sight distances on  
15 approaches to intersections;

16 (f) The department shall establish a permit system and fee schedule  
17 and rules for the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of these  
18 signs in accordance with the policy of this chapter;

19 (g) Signs in violation of these provisions shall be removed in  
20 accordance with the procedures in RCW 47.42.080;

21 (9) Signs with the Crimestoppers name, logo, and telephone number  
22 with the following restrictions:

23 (a) The size of the sign shall not exceed four by eight and three-  
24 quarters inches;

25 (b) The maintenance of the signs shall be the sole responsibility  
26 of Crimestoppers;

27 (c) All signs placed under this section shall be maintained at  
28 least twice yearly; and

29 (d) Any Crimestoppers sign not properly cared for may be removed by  
30 the department.

31 Only signs of types 1, 2, 3, 7, ~~((and))~~ 8, and 9 may be erected or  
32 maintained within view of the scenic system. Signs of types 7 and 8  
33 may also be erected or maintained within view of the federal aid  
34 primary system.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 47.42.102 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 271 s 2 are each  
36 amended to read as follows:

37 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section  
38 or RCW 47.42.040(9), just compensation shall be paid upon the removal

1 of any sign (pursuant to the provisions of chapter 47.42 RCW), lawfully  
2 erected under state law, which is visible from the main traveled way of  
3 the interstate system or the primary system.

4 (2) Such compensation shall be paid for the following:

5 (a) The taking from the owner of such sign, display, or device of  
6 all right, title, leasehold, and interest in such sign, display, or  
7 device; and

8 (b) The taking from the owner of the real property on which the  
9 sign, display, or device is located, of the right to erect and maintain  
10 such signs, displays, and devices thereon.

11 (3) In no event, however, shall compensation be paid for the taking  
12 or removal of signs adjacent to the interstate system and the scenic  
13 system which became subject to removal pursuant to chapter 96, Laws of  
14 1961 as amended by section 55, chapter 3, Laws of 1963 ex. sess. prior  
15 to May 10, 1971.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 47.42.107 and 1977 ex.s. c 141 s 1 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Unless the provisions of RCW 47.42.040(9) apply, just  
19 compensation shall be paid upon the removal of any existing sign  
20 pursuant to the provisions of any resolution or ordinance of any  
21 county, city, or town of the state of Washington by such county, city,  
22 or town if:

23 (a) Such sign was lawfully in existence on May 10, 1971 (the  
24 effective date of the Scenic Vistas Act of 1971); or

25 (b) Such sign was erected subsequent to May 10, 1971 (the effective  
26 date of the Scenic Vistas Act of 1971), in compliance with existing  
27 state and local law.

28 (2) Such compensation shall be paid in the same manner as specified  
29 in RCW 47.42.102(2) for the following:

30 (a) The taking from the owner of such sign, display, or device of  
31 all right, title, leasehold, and interest in such sign, display, or  
32 device; and

33 (b) The taking from the owner of the real property on which the  
34 sign, display, or device is located, of the right to erect and maintain  
35 such signs, displays, and devices thereon.

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